

UPI-78

(ANTI-MISSILE)

WASHINGTON--RICHARD HELMS, DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE, BRIEFED CONGRESSIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY EXPERTS TODAY ON SOVIET MISSILE STRENGTH, AND THE CIA TESTIMONY WAS DESCRIBED AS "SOBERING."

HELMS HAD NO COMMENT AFTER MEETING PRIVATELY FOR MORE THAN TWO HOURS WITH THE SENATE-HOUSE ATOMIC ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH IS CONSIDERING MISSILE AND ANTI-MISSILE PROGRAMS. CHAIRMAN HENRY M. JACKSON, D-WASH., GAVE THE APPRAISAL OF THE TESTIMONY, AND SAID "THERE IS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY."

"IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS DETERMINED TO BEAT US IN THE AREA OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE WEAPONS," JACKSON SAID, ADDING THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE ALSO "MOVING VERY RAPIDLY TO OBTAIN BETTER GENERAL PURPOSE FORCES."

IN SUM, JACKSON SAID THE RUSSIANS ARE MOVING RAPIDLY "IN ALL THE AREAS WHERE WE HAVE, IN THE PAST ENJOYED SUPERIORITY."

ASKED WHETHER IT APPEARED THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD ACHIEVE MILITARY SUPERIORITY, JACKSON SAID U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES DO NOT TRY TO MAKE COMPARATIVE APPRAISALS OF U.S. WEAPONS PROGRESS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE U.S. WILL "TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY" TO MAINTAIN "A POSTURE THAT PROVIDES DETERRENCE."

AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, JACKSON SAID THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS NOW ARE CAPABLE OF DEPLOYING NUCLEAR-ARMED INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES AND WILL BE ABLE TO DEPLOY INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILES IN THE EARLY 1970S. HE SAID THE PENTAGON'S DECISION TO DEPLOY A "THIIN" ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEM (ABM) APPEARS SOUND "AT THIS POINT."

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